

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 – 6 and new claims 14 – 37 are pending, with claims 1, 2, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 36 being independent.

The specification has been amended to add specific section headings, pursuant to U.S. practice. An Abstract of the Disclosure has also been added.

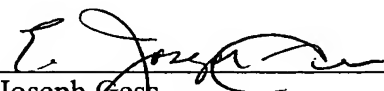
Claims 1 – 6 have been amended to delete multiple dependencies and to place the claims in proper U.S. format. Claims 7 – 13 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer thereto. New claims 14 – 37 have been added to replace the canceled “use” claims with method claims in proper U.S. format, and to further clarify the claimed invention. Basis for the new claims may be found throughout the specification, especially at page 14, lines 25-31; page 14, line 32 to page 15, line 7; page 15, lines 2-6, 7-19, 20-27, 28-32 and 33-34; and page 16, lines 3-5 and 7-9. Thus, no new matter is added by way of this Preliminary Amendment.

Favorable consideration of the subject application is respectfully requested. If there are any questions concerning this paper, or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at his or her earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: September 13, 2004

By: 
E. Joseph Gess
Registration No. 28,510

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620